



RULES OF HOSTING

Social Rules

PRIMARY LEVEL

Objectives >>>

Students should understand that:

- Islam encourages us to have guests, in moderation, and to accept invitations, in moderation
- Islam encourages us to be generous towards our guests and treat them well
- Islam encourages us to be selective about whom we invite to our homes, and whose invitations we accept
- While we should be generous to our guests, we should not overdo it

Let us start this lesson by looking at a scenario.

Abbas and his family have been invited to their cousin's house. Abbas has a cousin Ali, and they are good friends. When they enter, Ali's parents greet them all very nicely and welcome them. Abbas then wants to play with Ali, but Ali has been up in his room the whole day playing his favourite Playstation game. With permission from his aunty, Abbas goes up to Ali's room and says Salam and asks if he can play with him. Ali is so engrossed in his game that he does not even bother to look up. Abbas asks him again if he can play, and this time Ali angrily screams 'NO', and tells Abbas that he wants to play on his own!

Abbas calmly walks out of the room. It is now time for dinner, and the whole family is seated at the table. Ali's mother calls him to eat a few times, and finally Ali yells from his room – I'M NOT HUNGRY!!



Now, let us look at Ali's attitude.

What do you think he has done wrong?

- 1) He was not present to greet his cousins when they came.
- 2) He did not respond the Salam from Abbas
- 3) He yelled at Abbas and was very rude
- 4) He did not sit with the family to eat and screamed at his mum.

Islam is a beautiful religion and encourages us greatly to have guests. Guests bring blessings into our homes. It is also encouraged to accept an invitation from our fellow brothers and sisters.

When we invite guests into our homes, our parents are usually preparing for the meal, and they make sure the house is nice and tidy. What sort of things can you do to help your mum and dad?

- 1) Help clean whether vacuuming, clearing out your room, etc...
- 2) Dress up appropriately
- 3) Greet the guests with Salām and a smile on the face and welcome them nicely
- 4) Sit at the dinner table with the family
- 5) Help clean up after the guests leave
- 6) If you have friends/cousins your age, take them to your room and share your toys and games.

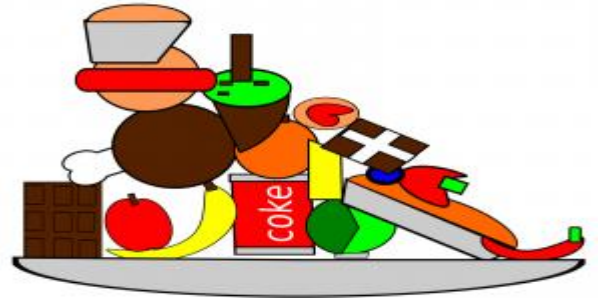
As much as it is recommended to have guests over at home, we should be careful of whom we invite. Islam discourages us from inviting people of bad character, for example those who drink alcohol, listen to music, etc... We should stay away from people like this.

Similarly, if we are invited to a dinner or a birthday party from people who commit sin openly, we should refuse such an invitation. This is because Satan hangs around people of this sort, and spending time with them can be harmful for us.



While having guests and being generous towards them is recommended in Islam, we should keep in mind not to overdo it by:

- 1) Wasting – Often a lot of food remains from gatherings. We should use the same food for the next day and NOT throw it.
- 2) We should be extravagant. Keep things simple.



Do not go over board by spending on expensive cutlery, etc.

- 3) We should not put ourselves in any difficulty. Try and limit the food we keep for our guests. More food means more difficulty in preparing and this also results in more waste.

Class Activity

List 5 things that you would like to experience when you go to a friend's place for dinner.

Review Questions

Q1. When visiting guests, we should:

- a. Greet them with a Salām
- b. Enter and rush through the door.
- c. Smile and walk in

Q2. When we invite people to our home, it is better to:

- a. Waste food
- b. Keep things simple
- c. Go overboard with decorating the house